

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, September 29, 2009, commencing at 7:02 a.m.

Present: Council Member Hitchcock, Mayor Pro Tempore Katzakian, and Mayor Hansen

Absent: Council Member Johnson, and Council Member Mounce

Also Present: City Manager King, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Johl

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Update on Preparedness to Public Health Threat from H1N1 Virus (FD)

City Manager King briefly introduced the subject matter of the public threat from the H1N1 virus.

Interim Fire Chief Kevin Donnelly and Ginger Wick, representative from San Joaquin County Public Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the H1N1 virus. Specific topics of discussion included H1N1 influenza overview, recognition of virus with potential to cause pandemic, signs and symptoms, spread of virus, protection from getting sick, everyday steps to protect, what to do if you get sick, emergency warning signs, warning signs in children, what is CDC doing, County efforts, expectations for influenza during fall and winter, public health planning efforts, efforts by the City, and a summary of the vaccine availability.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Chief Donnelly stated the H1N1 virus is not airborne, but rather droplet borne whereby it comes out and falls.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Ms. Wick stated because the virus is droplet borne and not airborne, a non-respiratory mask is not effective.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Ms. Wick stated the virus was discovered in March and April and the vaccine is in production, although it does take time to make and test the vaccine.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Ms. Wick stated the vaccination has gone through human testing, production is underway, and distribution will likely start in phases at the end of October.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Wick stated the vaccination has gone through limited human trials, is not a new method of producing vaccination, and is not controversial in the public health arena.

In response to Mr. King, Ms. Wick stated she has not heard of a shortage of the seasonal flu vaccine. She stated the Public Health Agency will begin administering the seasonal flu vaccination tomorrow free of charge at various clinics.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Chief Donnelly stated vaccinations are provided to public safety and first responders who are in direct contact with the public. Human Resources Manager Dean Gualco stated seasonal flu vaccinations are also available to City employees at their expense. Mr. Gualco stated Sutter Health has advised that the H1N1 vaccination will not be available until October and November. Ms. Wick confirmed that there will be two H1N1 vaccinations for ten and under and one vaccination for those over ten.

A brief discussion ensued among Mayor Hansen, Mr. King, and Chief Donnelly regarding the availability and benefits of antibacterial dispensers throughout City facilities including the library.

In response to Mr. King, Chief Donnelly stated because the H1N1 virus is droplet borne and not airborne, a mask may only be effective if an individual was within a three-foot or closer proximity to another infected individual.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Ms. Wick confirmed that the H1N1 vaccination is not available today and will not be available until mid to late October.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Ms. Wick stated she has not heard of specific incidents in Mexico and once the virus is pandemic it can be contracted anywhere worldwide.

In response to City Attorney Schwabauer, Chief Donnelly stated it is advised that an employee not return to work until 24 hours after they are no longer taking medication and there are no more symptoms present.

In response to Mayor Hansen, Mr. Wick stated the biggest difference with H1N1 is that it is affecting a different population between the ages of six months old and 24 years old. Chief Donnelly stated that, while there is ongoing information about the virus that is coming out, at this point the virus appears to be no more severe than the seasonal flu.

In response to Mr. King, Ms. Wick stated the Southern Hemisphere had seasonal flu and H1N1 circulating at the same time, which caused the initial influx of reporting.

In response to Council Member Hitchcock, Ms. Wick stated there is some speculation that people over 60 years of age may have some immunity based on an earlier virus that was similar to H1N1, although she has not heard of any immunity theories based on prior vaccinations.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Chief Donnelly stated the relapse period between symptoms is probably no more than a week. He stated it is also important to remember that there are two flu viruses circulating and it is possible to have one and then get the second.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk